Ganga Cleaning Authority

2714. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the existing status of Ganga Cleaning Authority;

(b) its specific achievements with respect to its role and functions; and

(c) the details of specific areas where it has achieved success vis-a-vis the problems solved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) The Central Ganga Authority set up to oversee the implementation of the Ganga Action Plan has since been merged with the National River Conservation Authority which oversees the implementation of the Ganga Action Plan as well as the National River Conservation Plan.

(b) and (c). Of the 261 schemes of pollution abatement taken up under the Ganga Action Plan Phase I, 248 schemes have since been completed. With the completion of these schemes, there is discernible improvement in the water quality of river Ganga in terms of both the bio-chemical oxygen demand and dissolved oxygen.

[Translation]

Projects from Gujarat Minorities Finance and Development Corporation and Gujarat Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation

2715. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation and the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation have received projects from the Gujarat Minorities Finance and Development Corporation during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the projects out of those approved by the Central Govt.; and

(d) the time by which the remaining projects of the State would be accorded approval?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The details during the last three years are as under :

	1993-94	*1994-95*	*1995-96*
No. of projects received by National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation from Gujarat Scheduled Castes Economic Development Corporation.	18	13	4
No. of projects received by National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation from Gujarat Minorities Finance and Development Corporation	Nil	Nil	8

All projects received from Gujarat Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Cor. and Gujarat Minorities Development Cor. till 1995-96 have been cleared by National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Cor. and National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation respectively.

(c) There is no system of Central Government approval for National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation and National Minorities Development Finance Corporations' schemes.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Programme for Pollution Control

2716. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation has recently launched a programme to check the growing air and water pollution in the city;

(b) if so, the details of the programme and the quantum of Central assistance for the programme; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage similar programmes in the country and other parts of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A study on environmental risk assessment of the city of Ahmedabad was conducted by the Centre for Environment Planning and Techology, Ahmedabad sponsored by the USAID, New Delhi with the assistance and paricipation of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. Based on the recommendations made in the study, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation has initiated the following measures to reduce air pollution levels in the city and prevent water pollution :

1. The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation has procured emission testing meters for transport buses of Ahmedabad Municipal Transport Service.
2. The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation in association with the Directorate of Transport and the State Government Ministry of Transport has taken up the issue of setting up of vehicle emission testing centres in various parts of the city through private sector participation.